

Gaudette, Angela

From: Gaudette, Angela
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 1:33 PM
To: Gaudette, Angela
Subject: FW: Comment regarding 2502 Park View Drive

From: Tanner Blair <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 12:58 PM
To: PAZ Preservation <Preservation@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Comment regarding 2502 Park View Drive

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To Whom It May Concern,

As a supporter of historic preservation and a north central Austin homeowner, I ask that you decline to designate the home at 2502 Park View Drive as historic for the following reasons:

1. There were many buildings in the Austin area prior to these homes that had air conditioning. By the time this home was built, churches and commercial properties often had air conditioning.
2. There were middle-class neighborhoods in Dallas a full two years prior to this home having air conditioning, so the story that these homes somehow “proved” that it was viable to have an air-conditioned home are not accurate.
3. Even if I were to accept the conceit that being one of the first homes in Austin were historic, this home has been modified since it’s construction and to the best of my knowledge no longer features the original unit.
4. As a stand-alone home, it is unremarkable.

Furthermore, the facts surrounding this home’s supposed historic value are not recently discovered. If this home is truly of a historic nature, then why are we just now working to preserve it? My belief is this is being pursued not because local residents want to save history, but because they wish to deny new development. When the work of the HLC is used to further an agenda that is not actually historic preservation, it puts the great work of your committee in question. We owe it to ourselves to hold a high bar for preservation, lest the bar become meaningless.

In summary, I do not believe this home to be historic, and I hope that given the facts and the risk of diluting the meaning of the HLC, that you will not pursue a historic designation for this property or any of the properties in the so-called “Air-Conditioned Village”. Don’t dilute the meaning of the important work you are doing.

Regards,
Tanner Blair

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